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10/537,128	06/02/2005	Johannus Leopoldus Bakx	NL021305	8392

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EXAMINER
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ALI, FARHAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2109

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/537,128	Applicant(s) BAKX, JOHANNUS LEOPOLDUS	
	Examiner Farhad Ali	Art Unit 2109	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Wegener (US 2003/0216891 A1).

#### **Wegener teaches:**

#### **Claim 1**

A computer network, comprising:

a communications network ([0024] "The remote site 331 and the bench test area 305 communicate typically via a global distributed computer network, such as the Internet 351");

a unit under test coupled to the communications network; a test controller coupled to the communications network and operable to communicate over the communications network to test the unit under test ([0004] "A test control station at the supplier site includes a test bench device for actually testing the electronic components" and "The test control station and the video meeting station at the supplier site are connected via both voice/audio links and visual links");

and a virtual presence station adapted to be positioned at a desired physical location and being operable to communicate over the communications network with a remote user and with the unit under test and the test controller, the virtual presence station being operable to communicate data to the remote user that is a function of the physical position of the virtual presence station and being further operable responsive to data from the remote user to control the test controller and/or the unit under test ([0005] "Thus, the test bench device and the remote test control station may be fully secure networks and communicate with each other via the WebEx services through one or more firewalls").

### **Claim 2**

The computer network of claim 1 wherein the virtual presence station communicates with the remote user through a virtual private network ([0024] "It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that communication can be via an extranet, intranet, or other network of computers").

### **Claim 3**

The computer network of claim 1 wherein the virtual presence station is operable to communicate, in addition to the audio and video data, emails and other digital files to the remote user ([0023] "The remote site also has a computing device 333 for viewing and displaying both video information as captured by the camera 315, and for displaying the results of the actual test, for instance, an output from the oscilloscope 321").

**Claim 4**

The computer network of claim 1 wherein the virtual presence station comprises:

a computer including a wireless interface operable to communicate with the communications network ([0024] "The remote site 331 and the bench test area 305 communicate typically via a global distributed computer network, such as the Internet 351");

a high-resolution image capture system coupled to the computer ([0005] "A more expensive, and higher resolution, Web-enabled camera can be used);

a low-resolution image capture system coupled to the computer ([0005] "Typically, an inexpensive video camera, or Webcam, is connected at the video meeting station with the test bench device");

an audio communications system coupled to the computer ([0004] "connected via both voice/audio links");

a test area adapted to receive units to be tested; a power source coupled at least to the computer; and a transfer apparatus adapted to hold the computer, high-resolution and low resolution image capture systems, audio communications system, test area, and power source ([0004] "A test control station at the supplier site includes a test bench device for actually testing the electronic components").

**Claim 5**

The computer network of claim 1 wherein the test controller executes a Unix operating system and the computer executes a Windows operating system ([0021] "connected to a computing device 313, which in some embodiments is a personal computer running UNIX" and "In other embodiments, the personal computer may be running other operating systems, for instance, LINUX, HP/UX or Microsoft.RTM. Windows.TM.").

#### **Claim 6**

The computer network of claim 1 wherein the virtual presence station is operable to control the test controller and/or the unit under test to perform an integrated circuit test and/or a functional unit test on the unit under test ([0007] "This system will allow the personnel at the remote test control station to modify the parameters of the test. For instance, the oscilloscope will have a number of parameters that must be set in order to take the readings and test the power supply").

#### **Claim 7**

The computer network of claim 1 wherein the data the virtual presence station communicates to the remote user includes audio and video data ([0004] "connected via both voice/audio links");

#### **Claim 8**

A computer network, comprising: a local computer network, including, a communications network;

a unit under test coupled to the communications network; a test controller coupled to the communications network and operable to communicate over the communications network to test the unit under test ([0004] "A test control station at the supplier site includes a test bench device for actually testing the electronic components" and "The test control station and the video meeting station at the supplier site are connected via both voice/audio links and visual links");

and a virtual presence station adapted to be positioned at a desired physical location and being operable to communicate over the communications network with a remote user and with the unit under test and/or the test controller, the virtual presence station being operable to communicate data to the remote user that is a function of the physical position of the virtual presence station and being further operable responsive to data from the remote user to control the test controller and/or the unit under test ([0005] "Thus, the test bench device and the remote test control station may be fully secure networks and communicate with each other via the WebEx services through one or more firewalls");

and a remote computer network operable responsive to remote user input to communicate with the virtual presence station to control the unit under test and/or the test controller ([0007] "This system will allow the personnel at the remote test control station to modify the parameters of the test. For instance, the oscilloscope will have a

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number of parameters that must be set in order to take the readings and test the power supply”).

#### **Claim 9**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the virtual presence station communicates with the remote computer network through a virtual private network established between the local computer network and the remote computer network ([0024] “It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that communication can be via an extranet, intranet, or other network of computers”).

#### **Claim 10**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the virtual presence station is operable to communicate, in addition to the audio and video data, emails and other digital files to the remote user ([0023] “The remote site also has a computing device 333 for viewing and displaying both video information as captured by the camera 315, and for displaying the results of the actual test, for instance, an output from the oscilloscope 321”).

#### **Claim 11**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the local computer network comprises a computer network at a contract manufacturer site or a configure to order site, and wherein the remote computer network comprises a corporate intranet ([0004] “An embodiment of the present system and method is a system for remote testing of



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electrical and other components wherein the tests are performed both at a supplier site and monitored and controlled at the production team site" and [0017] "It will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that testing and monitoring of components may be conducted by any organization in the supply chain, including third party contractors or government agencies, and the terms "supplier" and "production teams" are used for illustrative purposes, herein, with no loss of generality").

### **Claim 12**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the remote computer network is further operable to communicate with a home computer system to allow a remote user while at home to communicate with the local computer network via the remote computer network ([0027] "In another alternative embodiment, the test may be viewed by third parties at another remote site").

### **Claim 13**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the test controller executes a Unix operating system and wherein the virtual presence station executes a Windows operating system ([0021] "connected to a computing device 313, which in some embodiments is a personal computer running UNIX" and "In other embodiments, the personal computer may be running other operating systems, for instance, LINUX, HP/UX or Microsoft.RTM. Windows.TM.").

**Claim 14**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the virtual presence station is operable to control the test controller and/or the unit under test to perform an integrated circuit test and/or a functional unit test on the unit under test ([0007] "This system will allow the personnel at the remote test control station to modify the parameters of the test. For instance, the oscilloscope will have a number of parameters that must be set in order to take the readings and test the power supply").

**Claim 15**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the virtual presence station comprises:  
a computer including a wireless interface operable to communicate with the communications network ([0024] "The remote site 331 and the bench test area 305 communicate typically via a global distributed computer network, such as the Internet 351");

a high-resolution image capture system coupled to the computer ([0005] "A more expensive, and higher resolution, Web-enabled camera can be used");

a low-resolution image capture system coupled to the computer ([0005] "Typically, an inexpensive video camera, or Webcam, is connected at the video meeting station with the test bench device");

an audio communications system coupled to the computer ([0004] "connected via both voice/audio links");

a test area adapted to receive units to be tested; a power source coupled at least to the computer; and a transfer apparatus adapted to hold the computer, high-resolution and low resolution image capture systems, audio communications system, test area, and power source ([0004] "A test control station at the supplier site includes a test bench device for actually testing the electronic components").

#### **Claim 16**

The computer network of claim 8 wherein the data the virtual presence station communicates to the remote user includes audio and video data ([0004] "connected via both voice/audio links").

#### **Claim 17**

A virtual presence station adapted to be positioned at a desired physical location and being operable to communicate over a communications network with a remote user and with a unit under test and/or a test controller, the virtual presence station being operable to communicate data to the remote user that is a function of the physical position of the virtual presence station and being further operable responsive to data from a remote user to control the test controller and/or the unit under test ([0005] "Thus, the test bench device and the remote test control station may be fully secure networks and communicate with each other via the WebEx services through one or more firewalls").

**Claim 18**

The virtual presence station of claim 17, comprising:

a computer including a wireless interface operable to couple the computer to a computer network ([0024] "The remote site 331 and the bench test area 305 communicate typically via a global distributed computer network, such as the Internet 351");

a high-resolution image capture system coupled to the computer ([0005] "A more expensive, and higher resolution, Web-enabled camera can be used");

a low-resolution image capture system coupled to the computer ([0005] "Typically, an inexpensive video camera, or Webcam, is connected at the video meeting station with the test bench device");

an audio communications system coupled to the computer ([0004] "connected via both voice/audio links");

a test area adapted to receive units to be tested; a power source coupled at least to the computer; and a transfer apparatus adapted to hold the computer, high-resolution and low resolution image capture systems, audio communications system, test area, and power source ([0004] "A test control station at the supplier site includes a test bench device for actually testing the electronic components").

**Claim 19**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the high-resolution image capture system comprises a digital camera ([0005] "A more expensive, and higher resolution, Web-enabled camera can be used").

**Claim 20**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the low-resolution image capture system comprises a network Web camera ([0005] "Typically, an inexpensive video camera, or Webcam, is connected at the video meeting station with the test bench device").

**Claim 21**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the power source comprises a battery ([0037] "The exemplary test bench equipment includes: an AC source, for instance, commercially available HP AC source 6813A"... "It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that a variety of devices could be substituted for the specific items listed above, and that depending on what type of component is under test, different types of testing equipment would be used").

**Claim 22**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the audio communications system comprises a wireless telephone ([0023] "In a preferred embodiment, voice communication is performed using a standard telephone 317").

**Claim 23**

The virtual presence station of claim 22 wherein the wireless telephone includes speaker phone functionality and wherein the audio communications system further comprises a wireless headset coupled to the wireless telephone ([0023] "In a preferred embodiment, voice communication is performed using a standard telephone 317").

**Claim 24**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the computer comprises a laptop [0021] "The bench test area 305 is used for testing component 319 with appropriate test equipment, for instance, oscilloscope 321, and is connected to a computing device").

**Claim 25**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the test area comprises an electrostatic discharge mat and grounding device ([0021] "The bench test area 305 is used for testing component 319 with appropriate test equipment").

**Claim 26**

The virtual presence station of claim 25 further comprising a light coupled to the transfer apparatus, the light operable to illuminate the test area ([0021] "The bench test area 305 is used for testing component 319 with appropriate test equipment").

**Claim 27**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the transfer apparatus comprises a portable cart having wheels adapted to allow the cart to be transported from one location to another ([0004] "A test control station at the supplier site includes a test bench device for actually testing the electronic components").

**Claim 28**

The virtual presence station of claim 18 wherein the data communicated to the remote user includes audio and video data ([0004] "connected via both voice/audio links").

**Claim 29**

A method of remotely testing units under test at a local site by a person at a remote site, the method comprising:

positioning a portable station at a desired location at the local site; providing to the remote site information relating to the units being tested, the information being a function of the position of the station ([0004] "A test control station at the supplier site includes a test bench device for actually testing the electronic components" and [0023] "A camera, for instance a Webcam 315, captures the testing of the component 319 and is connected to the computing device 313 for transmitting video information to other sites");

and communicating with the portable station from the remote site to test the units under test ([0004] "The test control station and the video meeting station at the supplier site are connected via both voice/audio links and visual links").

**Claim 30**

The method of claim 29 wherein communicating with the portable station from the remote site comprises communicating with personnel at the local site via the station to test the units under test ([0023] "The quality assurance team, or other monitoring organization, controls the supplier test from a remote site 331").

**Claim 31**

The method of claim 28 wherein real-time audio is provided via a computer network including the Internet and wherein the real-time video is provided by a network Web camera via computer network including the Internet ([0005] "A more expensive, and higher resolution, Web-enabled camera can be used" and [0004] "The test control station and the video meeting station at the supplier site are connected via both voice/audio links and visual links");

**Claim 32**

The method of claim 28 wherein the information comprises audio and video information ([0004] "connected via both voice/audio links").




***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farhad Ali whose telephone number is (571) 270-1920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey C. Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

F.A.

  
JEFFREY PWU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER